

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT GEORGE WILL OP-ED PAGE COLUMN THE WASHINGTON POST THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16 HEADED "MAO'S REAL LEGACY."

2. CHINA'S OBITUARY TREATMENT OF MAO WAS WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT FROM A REGIME THAT IS CONTEMPLATING MAKING HIS CORPSE AN ICON TO RIVAL MOSCOW'S EMBALMED LENIN. OBITUARY TREATMENT IN THE WEST HAS HAD THE TONE OF MUTED RESPECT RESERVED FOR SUCCESSFUL TYRANTS WHO DIE IN BED. AS SOMEONE--SCHILLER, I THINK--SAID: "IT IS CRIMINAL TO STEAL A PURSE, DARING TO STEAL A FORTUNE, A MARK OF GREATNESS TO STEAL A CROWN. THE BLAME DIMINISHES AS THE GUILD INCREASES."

3. IT WOULD BE NICE, BUT RASH, TO BELIEVE THAT MAO WAS THE LAST LEFTIST TOTALITARIAN TO STIR THE SYMPATHIES OF WESTERN "PROGRESSIVES." HE CERTAINLY STIRRED THEM MIGHTILY. AS DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN HAS SAID, SOME "PROGRESSIVES" ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THE ABSENCE OF FLIES THAN IN THE ABSENCE
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OF LIBERTY IN CHINA.

4. EVEN BEFORE MAO UNLEASHED THE "CULTURAL REVOLUTION,"

THEREBY RIPPING THREE YEARS OUT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF 800,000,000 PEOPLE, HIS "GREAT LEAP FORWARD" HAD GIVEN THE WORLD A GLIMPSE OF THIS TERRIBLY FOOLISH, TERRIBLE MAN'S CAPACITY FOR FIASCOES. THE FAMINE OF THE EARLY 1960S WAS A PRODUCT OF THE THOUGHT OF CHAIRMAN MAO.

5. WHATEVER MAO ACHIEVED IN IMPROVING THE CHINESE STANDARD OF LIVING MUST BE JUDGED AGAINST THIS FACT. WHEN HE TOOK CONTROL, IN 1949, CHINA WAS AT THE END OF FOUR DECADES OF REVOLUTION AND WAR. HE WAS STARTING AT WHAT STATISTICIANS CALL A "FALSE ZERO," AN UNNATURALLY LOW POINT.

6. LIKE HITLER, MAO'S OBSESSION WAS HIS NATION'S HUMILIATION. WHAT WORLD WAR I DID FOR HITLER, THE PROSTRATION AND EXPLOITATION OF CHINA DID FOR MAO. IT HAS BEEN WELL SAID THAT IN SEIZING POWER MAO DEMONSTRATED THE TACTICAL CUNNING OF LENIN, AND THE MILITARY FLAIR OF TROTSKY, AND IN WIELDING POWER HE SHOWED THE RUTHLESSNESS OF STALIN. AS WITH STALIN, PEOPLE GUESS AT THE NUMBER OF MILLIONS OF MAO'S VICTIMS.

7. THE TURNING POINT IN MAO'S LIFE WAS PEARL HARBOR; THE U.S. WAS HIS SALVATION. WITHOUT THE U.S. WAR AGAINST JAPAN, WHICH HAD CHINA UNDER ITS HEEL, MAO'S CONQUEST OF THE MAINLAND WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED. THUS, MAO BENEFITED FROM A WORLD WAR THAT HE "STARTED." HISTORIAN A.J.P. TAYLOR POINTS OUT THAT WORLD WAR II CAME ABOUT BECAUSE "A NUMBER OF SMALL WARS GRADUALLY COALESCED INTO A GREAT WAR," AND THE FIRST WAR WAS IN CHINA, AGAINST THE JAPANESE:

8. "MANY HISTORIANS, CONDITIONED TO THINK OF EUROPE AS THE CENTER OF THE WORLD, DATE THE WAR FROM SEPT. 1, 1939, WHEN GERMANY ATTACKED POLAND. THIS IS NOT AN ANSWER THAT WOULD SATISFY THE ABYSSINIANS OR THE CHINESE FOR WHOM THE WAR BEGAN EARLIER....IF A FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR MARKS THE STARTING POINT, THE SECOND WORLD WAR BEGAN IN APRIL, 1932, WHEN MAO TSE-TUNG AND CHOU TEH DECLARED WAR AGAINST JAPAN IN THE NAME OF THE KIANGSI SOVIET. (IT IS A HISTORICAL CURI-
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OSITY THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA DID NOT DECLARE WAR AGAINST JAPAN UNTIL AFTER PEARL HARBOR.)"

9. MAO WAS THE NEXT TO LAST SURVIVING LEADER OF THE WAR. THE LAST SURVIVOR IS MARSHALL TITO WHO, LIKE MAO, USED THE WAR TO ACHIEVE REVOLUTIONARY PURPOSES THAT ANTEDATED THE WAR. THESE PURPOSES WERE ACHIEVED IN THE CHAOS AND RUINS OF ITS AFTERMATH.

10. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAO'S DEATH PROCLAIMED,
"LONG LIVE INVINCIBLE MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT,
AND GAVE A FAIR SAMPLE OF THE MIND OF THE REGIME THAT HAS

BEEN STEEPED IN THAT THOUGHT:

11. "WE MUST...CONSOLIDATE THE GREAT UNITY OF THE PEOPLE OF
ALL NATIONALITIES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WORKING CLASS
AND BASED ON THE WORKER-PEASANT ALLIANCE, DEEPEN THE CRITI-
CISM OF TENG HSIAO-PING, CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE TO REPULSE
THE RIGHT DEVIATIONIST ATTEMPT AT REVERSING CORRECT VERDICTS,
CONSOLIDATE AND DEVELOP THE VICTORIES OF THE GREAT PROLETAR-
IAN CULTURAL REVOLUTION, ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORT THE NEW
SOCIALIST THINGS, RESTRICT THE BURGEOS RIGHT, AND FURTHER
CONSOLIDATE THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT IN OUR
COUNTRY."

12. FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING SAYS MAO WAS
"A BEACON OF WORLD THOUGHT." HERE IS A GLIMMER FROM THE
BEACON: "A MAN'S HEAD IS NOT LIKE A SCALLION, WHICH WILL
GROW AGAIN IF YOU CUT IT OFF; IF YOU CUT IT OFF WRONGLY,
THEN EVEN IF YOU WANT TO CORRECT YOUR ERROR, THERE IS NO WAY
OF DOING IT." THE BEACON HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED. (END
TEXT.) HABIB

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